Bunch Comics Extra

Der Ring des Nibelungen

ニーベルングの指環 2

Das Rheingold

ラインの黄金【下】

L.Matsumoto

松本零士

ニーベルングの指環 2

松本零士

新潮社

惑星ラインから盗まれた黄金……。
この黄金から指環を作り出せば、
全宇宙を支配できるという。
「指環をラインに戻せ!!」
ハーロックとトチローが立ち上がった!!

（巻末に、幻の短編『不滅のアレグレット』&
著者書き下ろしエッセイを特別収録）

Bunch Comics Extra

R.Wagner L.Matsumoto Das Rheingold Der Ring des Nibelungen ラインの黄金【上】

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ニーベルングの指環 1

音楽史上、最長最大のオペラを、松本キャラ総出演で完全コミック化!! 大宇宙を揺るがす指環争奪戦、ここに開幕!!

(第②巻に、幻の短編『不滅のアレグレット』&著者書き下ろしエッセイを特別収録)

リヒャルト・ワーグナー
Richard Wagner [1813~1883]

A native of Leipzig, Germany, he departed from classical opera and invented the "musical dramas'. Devoted a quarter of a century to the composition of his tetralogy "The Ring of the Nibelungen" in which he brings together different germanic tales, and built the Bayreuth Theatre for the performance of his works. It is still played every year on the Bayreuth Festival

松本零士
Leiji Matsumoto [1938~]

Born as Akira Matsumoto in Kurume Fukuoka department. Has drawn manga since primary school, in 1954, at the age of hfteeen, won the price of a shonen magazine for his manga "Mitsubachi no Boken" (The Adventures of a Bee) and made the first steps of his career. He went on to publish Shojo stories and the Mainichi "Shogakusei Shinbun Seibuban" (Western edition of the schoolchildren Mainichi Newspaper). After leaving school, he went to a pawnshop to sell a phonograph and some records he found on the street to finance his journey for settling into Tokyo. After "Sexaroid" and "Yojigen Sekai" (World of Four Dimmensions), he had his big break in 1972 with "Otoko Otdon" (I'm a Man) and won the Kodansha Cultural Price. Then followed titles such as "Uchuu Senkan Yamato" (Space Battleship Yamato) "Uchuu Kaizoku Kyaputen Haroku" (Space Pirate Captain Harlock), "Ginga Tetsudou 999" (Galaxy Express 999), all big hits later adapted into successful animé and theatrical films, specially the film version of "Galaxy Express 999", box-office record in 1979. Aside from his activities as a mangaka Leiji Matsumoto is also chairman of the Young Astronauts Club-Japan, and director of the National Council of Youth organization. In autumn 2001, he was awarded the Purple Ribbon Medal of Honor.

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Das Rheingold

(The Ring of the Nibelung)

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THE RHINE GOLD

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This manga is an entirely original work,
loosely based on "Der Ring Des Nibelungen"
a four part opera written and composed
by Richard Wagner (1813-1883).

(Scene 3)

The scene takes place in the underground realm of the Nibelugen. Alberich, while tormenting his young brother Mime*, speaks of his ambition to rule the world. The ring is completed!

(*Mime is a male in Wagner's opera. Leyi Matsumoto made this character a female: Miime)

(Scene 4)

In heaven, Wotan orders Alberich to give him the gold in exchange for his release. Using the ring, Alberich offers him a mountain of gold. The power of the ring truly terrifying! But gold is not enough for Wotan, as he also demands the ring. Filled with rage, Alberich lays a curse on the ring before leaving heaven.

A conflict between the gods and the giant brothers breaks out as they come to claim their reward: "-Take this golden mountain -Out of the question! Give me the ring too! -Anything but that..."

Suddenly, Erda, goddess of knowledge and mistress of Wotan appears: "Stop it! A curse lays on the ring. You two must be separated"

Wotan then reluctantly hands the ring to the giants. But as soon as they receive it, a violent dispute breaks out between them that results in the death of Fafner, the elder brother. A result of the ring's curse!

The turmoil finally ends, the gods, accompanied by Freia, return to their home: the Valhalla castle. But Wotan does not give up. He vows to return the ring to his hand one day. Loge, god of fire, concludes that the rule of the gods is comming to an end.

Far from Earth's surface, the cry of the Rhine maidens resonate: "Give back the gold -Give us the Rhine gold"

Regarded as one of the most important works in musical history, "Der Ring des Nibelungen", consists of four epic operas:

DER RING DES NIBELUNGEN

Original Story

- Prologue: The Rhine Gold.
- 1st Opera: Valkyrie.
- 2nd Opera: Siglried
- 3rd Opera: Twilight of the Gods.

A full performance of the cycle takes about 16 hours, the four parts can be played four nights in a row, but commonly, performances are spread over ten days. What follows is a summary of the original opera that served as the basis for this manga.

PROLOGUE: The Rhine Gold
(DAS RHEINGOLD)

(Scene 1)

The action takes place at the bottom of the Rhine. Three Rhine maidens guard the gold that lies at the bottom of the river. If a man renounces love, and forges a ring with this gold, its bearer will gain enough power to rule the world.

Alberich, of the Nibelung people, spirits that live in the depths of the Earth, appears. Before seizing the gold, he proclaims: "I have the most hideous appearance ever. I have no need for love".

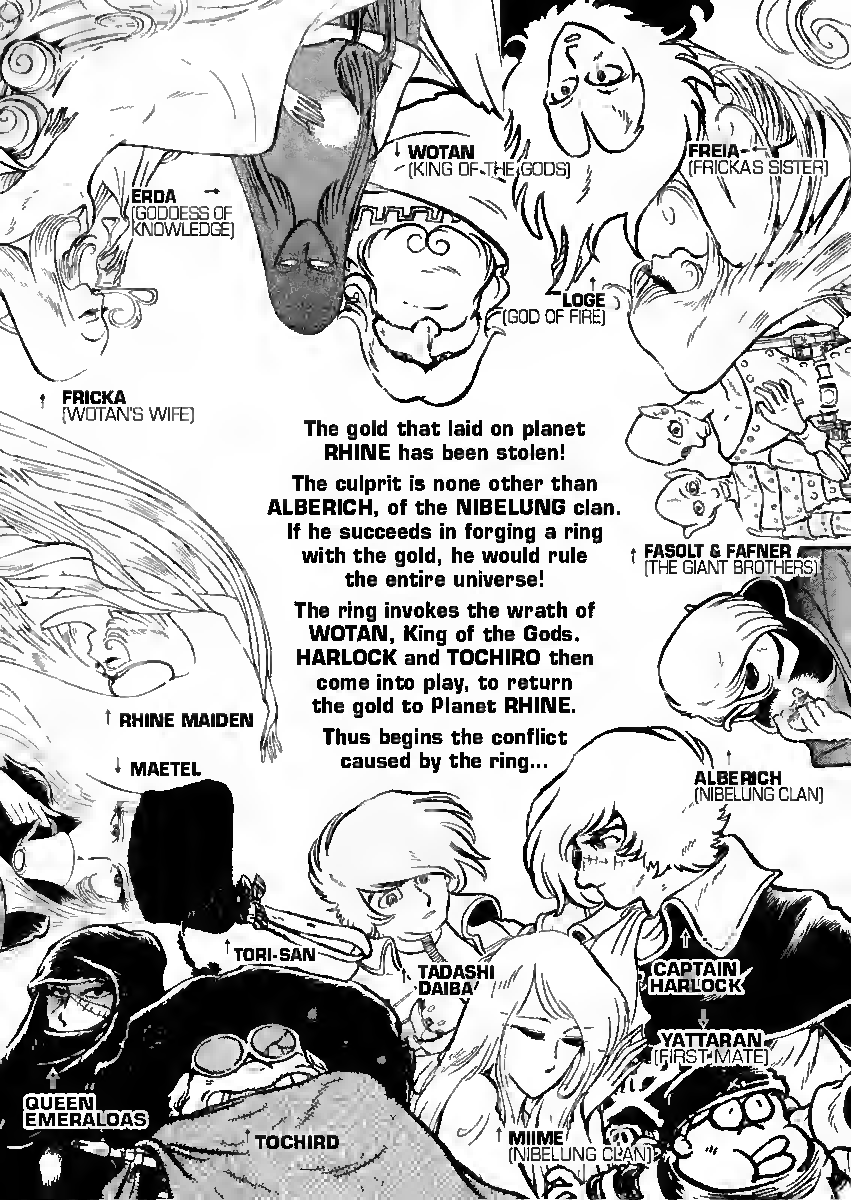
This is how the story begins...

(Scene 2)

Heaven. Wotan, ruler of the gods, awakes. Valhalla, the castle he commissioned the giant brothers to build, is completed, but refuses to pay the reward he had offered to them. Angered, the giants kidnap Freia, the younger sister of Wotan's wife, a goddess that grows the apples that provide youth and immortality. Without this fruit, the gods would gradually be extincted.

Then Loge, god of fire, warns, that according to a rumor, "Alberich the Nibelung, has stolen the Rhine gold, and forged ring with it". Wotan is determined to take the ring from the hands of Alberich and give it to the giants in return for Freia.

Wotan, accompanied by Loge, leaves for the land of the Nibelungen


WOTAN
(KING OF THE GODS)
FREIA
(FRICKA'S SISTER)
ERDA
(GODDESS OF KNOWLEDGE)
LOGE
(GOD OF FIRE)
FRICKA
(WOTAN'S WIFE)
The gold that laid on planet RHINE has been stolen!
The culprit is none other than ALBERICH, of the NIBELUNG clan. If he succeeds in forging a ring with the gold, he would rule the entire universe!
The ring invokes the wrath of WOTAN, King of the Gods. HARLOCK and TOCHIRO then come into play, to return the gold to Planet RHINE.
Thus begins the conflict caused by the ring...
FASOLT & FAFNER
(THE GIANT BROTHERS)
RHINE MAIDEN
MAETEL
ALBERICH
(NIBELUNG CLAN)
TORI-SAN
TADASHI DAIBA
CAPTAIN HARLOCK
YATTARAN
(FIRST MATE)
QUEEN EMERALOAS
TOCHIRO
MIIME
(NIBELUNG CLAN)

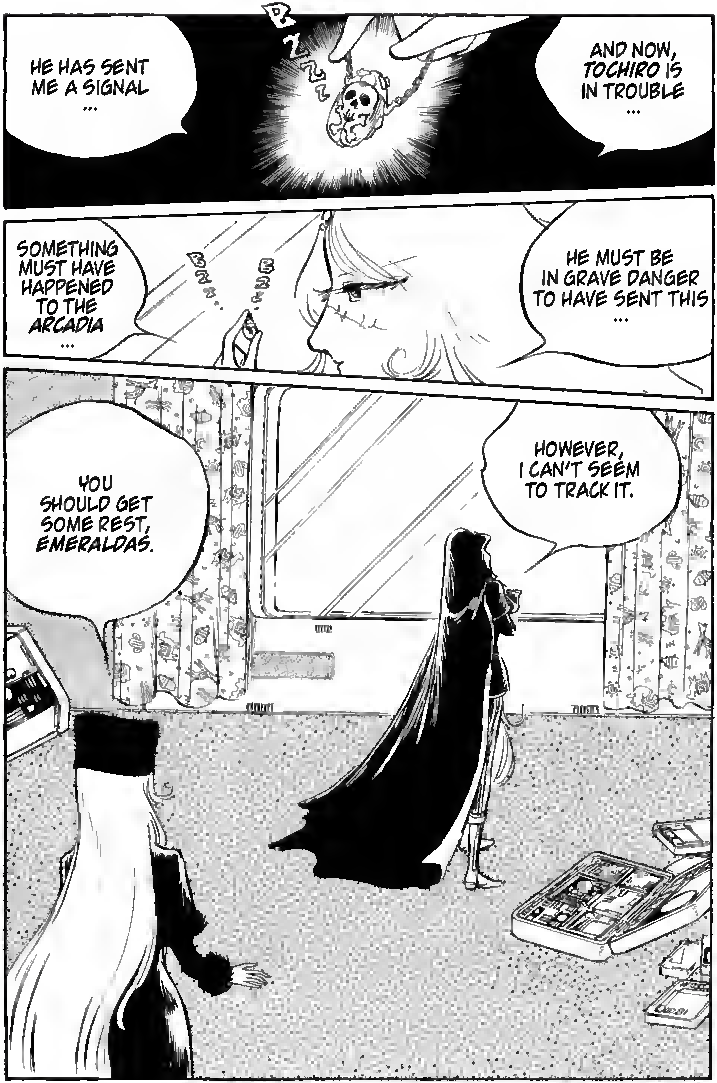
Das Rheingold

Ring 8: Loge, God of Fire

WHAT'S IN THAT FORTRESS?
SHINA
!!

ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.
NOTHING.
IT COULD WORK AS A PRETTY GOOD SHELTER.
WOOSH
WHAT ACTIONS?
...BECAUSE YOU'LL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR YOUR OWN ACTIONS.
WHEN WE GET THERE, YOU'LL BE THE ONE IN THE MOST DANGER...
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME MIME?
DAIBA, FOLLOW ME, ...
IT WAS YOU, DAIBA, WHO MADE THE RING.
I WAS ONLY FOLLOWING ORDERS!!

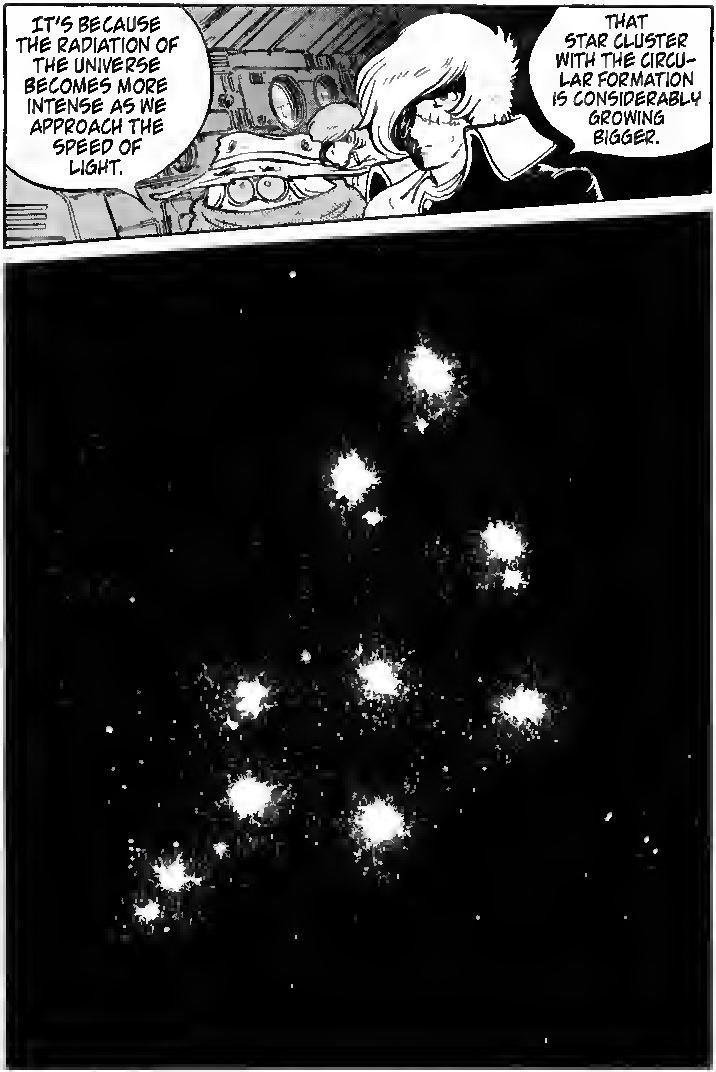
SO STRANGE... THE STARS ARE AGING AT A RAPIDLY INCREASING RATE, HERE, AND THERE AS WELL.
ALSO, THERE ARE PLACES WHERE NEW STARS ARE BEING BORN IN VERY HIGH NUMBERS.


HE HAS SENT ME A SIGNAL ...
BZZZZ
AND NOW, TOCHIRO IS IN TROUBLE ...
SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED TO THE ARCADIA ...
BZZ...
BZZ...
HE MUST BE IN GRAVE DANGER TO HAVE SENT THIS ...
YOU SHOULD GET SOME REST, EMERALDAS.
HOWEVER, I CAN'T SEEM TO TRACK IT.

EVEN SO, IT IS A VERY WEAK SIGNAL.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO TRACE THE SIGNAL, EVEN THOUGH IT REACHED ME FINE.
IT MIGHT HAVE PASSED TROUGH MANY OBSTACLES ...
...OR TRAVELLED A VERY LONG DISTANCE...
...MAYBE EVEN BOTH!

BRING ME TO THE ASTEROID WHERE THE QUEEN EMERALDAS IS LOCATED.
WE HAVE NO TIME TO REST, MAETEL.

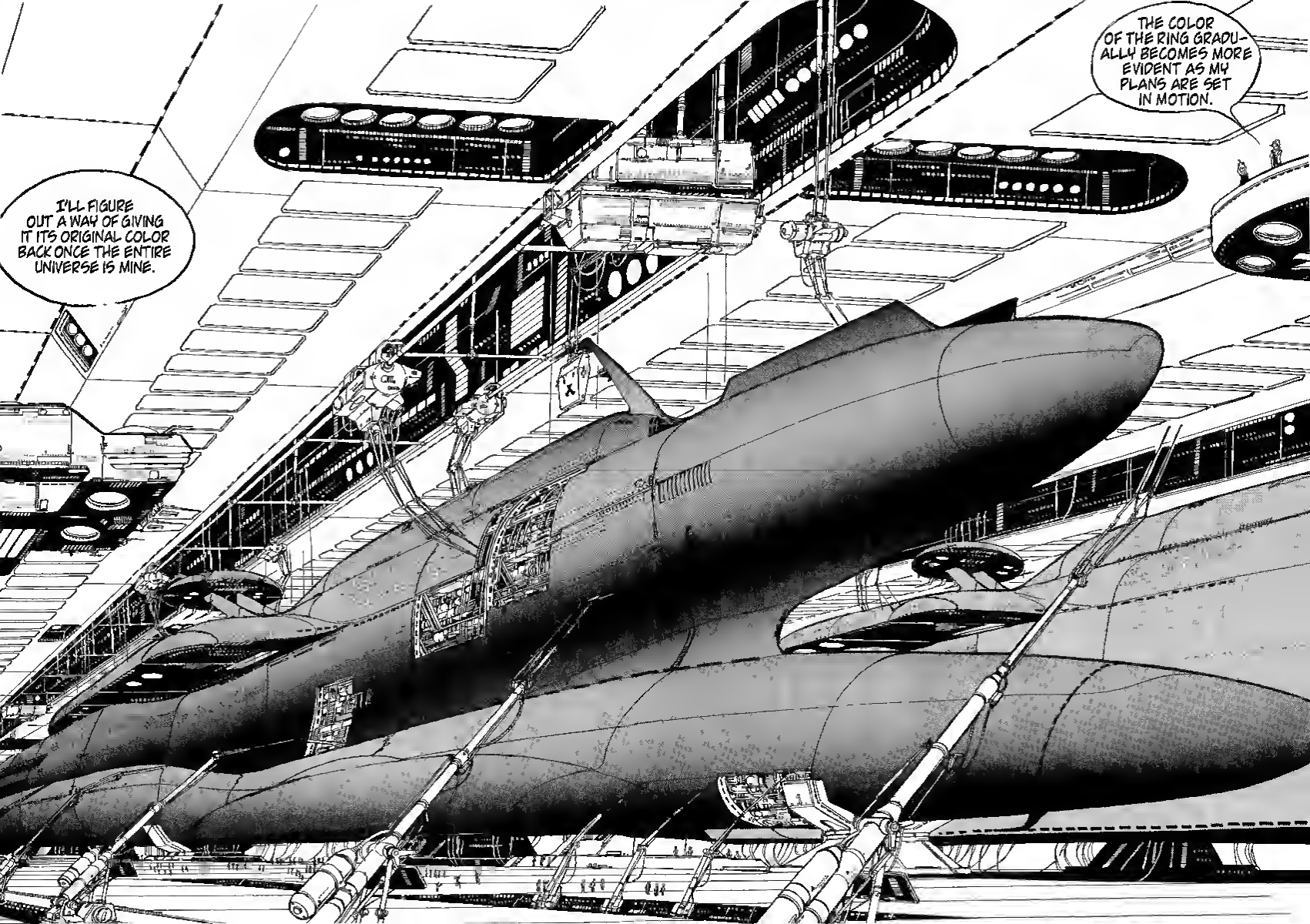
YOU'RE STILL IN NO CONDITION ...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
WE NEED TO FIND THE ARCADIA.

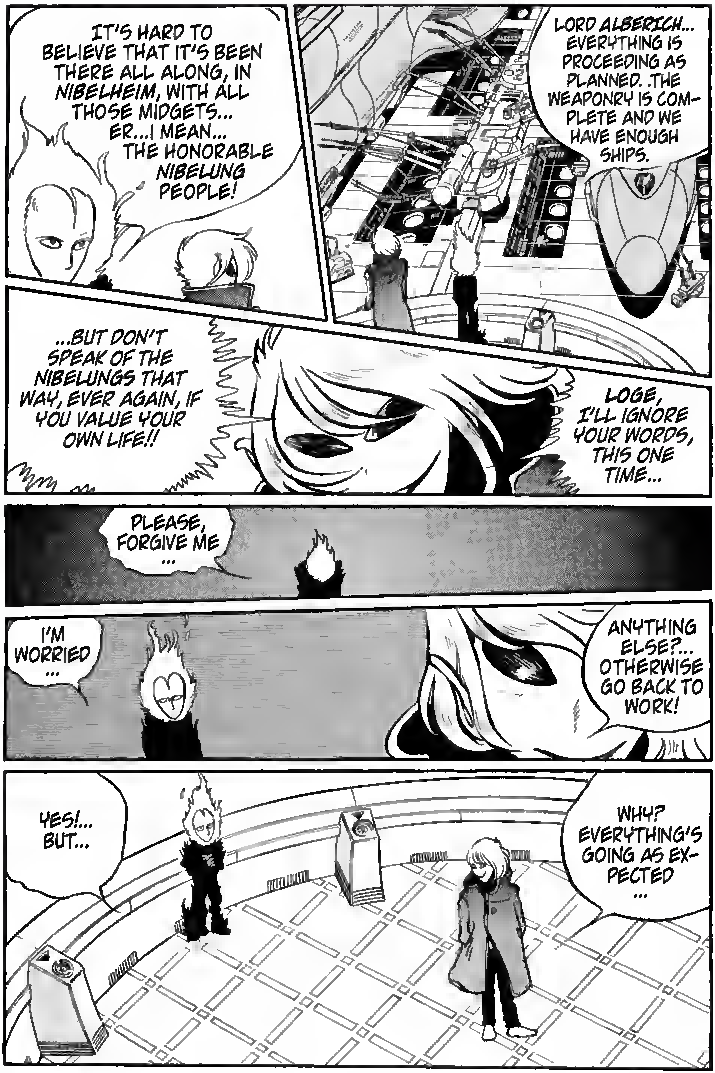

IT'S BECAUSE THE RADIATION OF THE UNIVERSE BECOMES MORE INTENSE AS WE APPROACH THE SPEED OF LIGHT.
THAT STAR CLUSTER WITH THE CIRCULAR FORMATION IS CONSIDERABLY GROWING BIGGER.

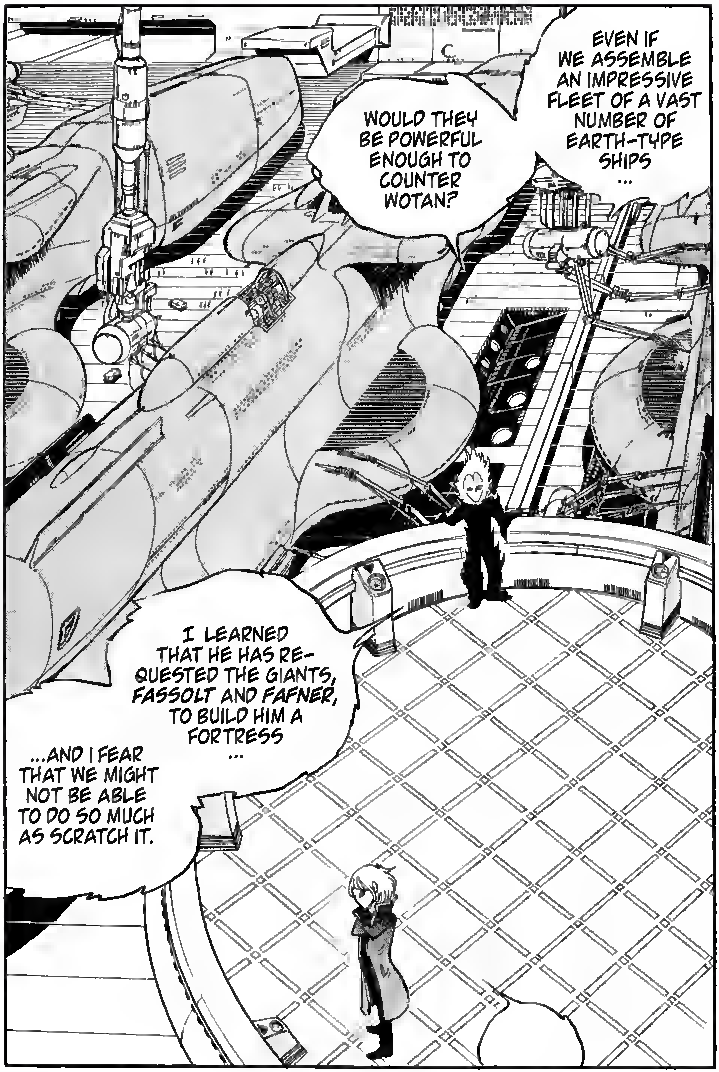
I WONDER IF EMERALDAS RECEIVED MY SIGNAL.
WHO KNOWS.
EVEN SO ...
...SHE WOULD NEVER MAKE IT ON TIME.

O ALBERICH! WORTHY OF UTMOST RESPECT! ARE YOU ASKING ME WHAT THE COLOR OF THAT RING IS?
ANSWER ME SLAVE!! YOU, LOGE, MASTER OF FIRE AND HEAT... WHAT COLOR DO YOU PERCEIVE THIS RING TO BE?
EVER SINCE I WORE IT ON MY FINGER, IT HAS TURNED INTO AN INCREASINGLY BLOOD-RED COLOR!
HARD TO BELIEVE IT, BUT THIS IS INDEED THE ONE FORGED FROM THE RHINE GOLD.
ANSWER ME AT ONCE !!
THE RING IS CRIMSON-RED... NO! IT'S EVEN MORE INTENSE THAN THAT!

WHEN I DEEPLY GAZE AT IT, I GET THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE'S BLOOD FLOWING INSIDE.
COULD YOU GIVE IT BACK ITS GOLDEN SHADE?
ITS GOLDEN SHADE?
WHOEVER FORGED IT DID A VERY GOOD WORK.
I'M AFRAID THERE IS NOTHING I CAN DO.
IT'S TOO FRIGHTENING, I DON'T EVEN DARE TO TOUCH IT.
ONLY THE ONE WHO FORGED IT COULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.
"THE ONE WHO FORGED IT" ...
HE'S DEAD, ...
KILLED BY MY OWN HANDS.

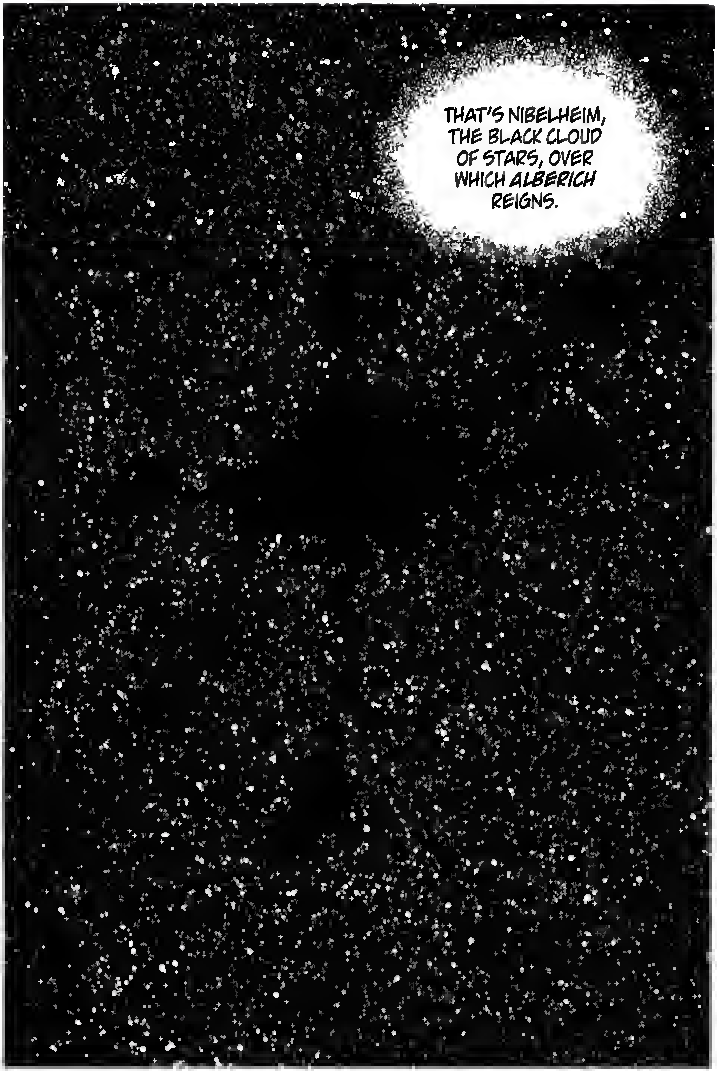

I'LL FIGURE OUT A WAY OF GIVING IT ITS ORIGINAL COLOR BACK ONCE THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE IS MINE.
THE COLOR OF THE RING GRADUALLY BECOMES MORE EVIDENT AS MY PLANS ARE SET IN MOTION.

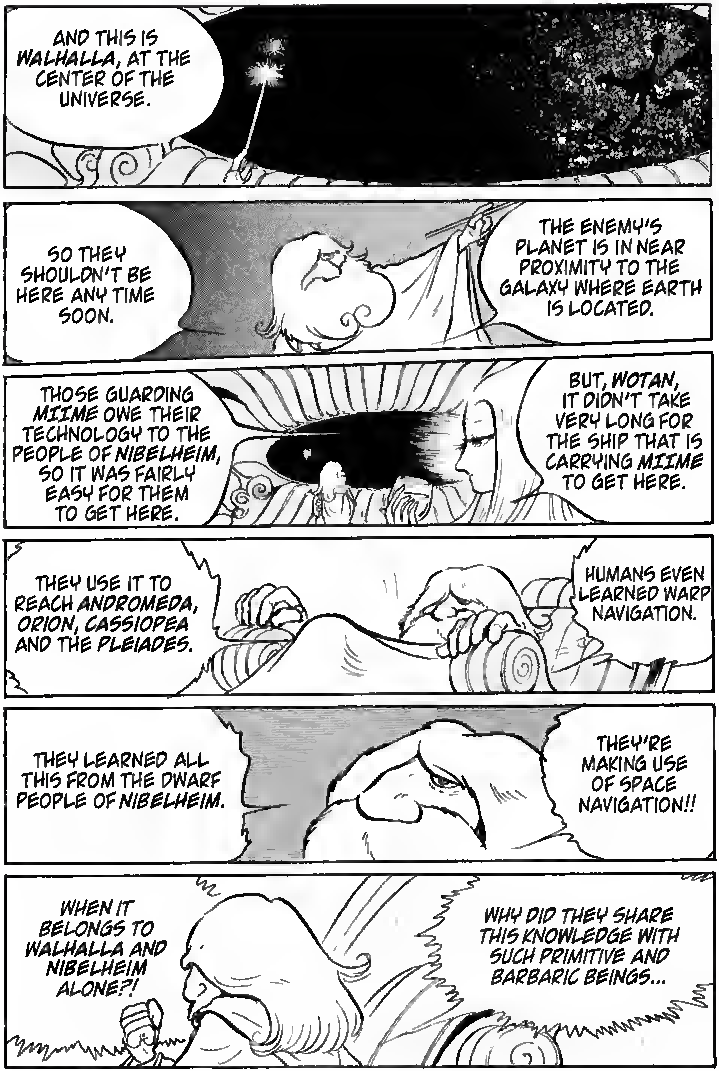

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT IT'S BEEN THERE ALL ALONG, IN NIBELHEIM, WITH ALL THOSE MIDGETS... ER...I MEAN... THE HONORABLE NIBELUNG PEOPLE!
LORD ALBERICH... EVERYTHING IS PROCEEDING AS PLANNED. .THE WEAPONRY IS COMPLETE AND WE HAVE ENOUGH SHIPS.
...BUT DON'T SPEAK OF THE NIBELUNGS THAT WAY, EVER AGAIN, IF YOU VALUE YOUR OWN LIFE!!
LOGE, I'LL IGNORE YOUR WORDS, THIS ONE TIME...
PLEASE, FORGIVE ME ...
I'M WORRIED ...
ANYTHING ELSE?... OTHERWISE GO BACK TO WORK!
YES!... BUT...
WHY? EVERYTHING'S GOING AS EXPECTED ...

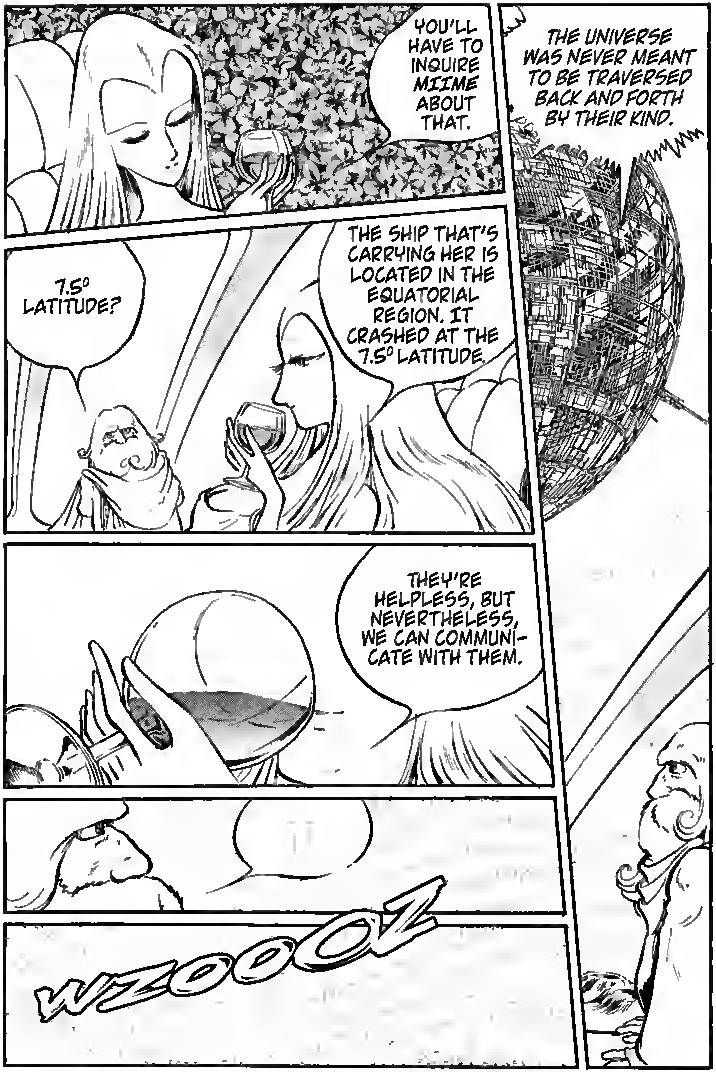

EVEN IF WE ASSEMBLE AN IMPRESSIVE FLEET OF A VAST NUMBER OF EARTH-TYPE SHIPS ...
WOULD THEY BE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO COUNTER WOTAN?
I LEARNED THAT HE HAS REQUESTED THE GIANTS, FASSOLT AND FAFNER, TO BUILD HIM A FORTRESS ...
...AND I FEAR THAT WE MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO DO SO MUCH AS SCRATCH IT.

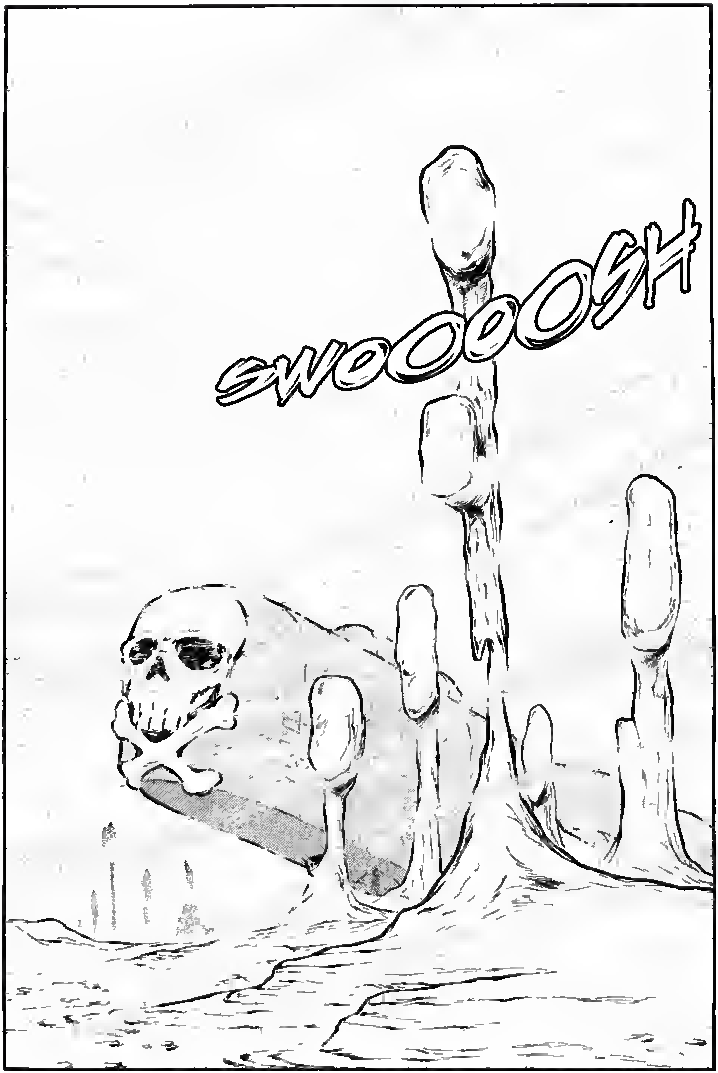
THE STRENGTH OF OUR FLEET DEPENDS ON THE POWER OF THIS RING.
I FINALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT ITS TRUE POWER REALLY IS ...
THIS SIMPLE RING...
...HAS RULED THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE IN THE PAST, AND I FINALLY UNDERSTAND THE REASON WHY.
IT'S BECAUSE A HIDDEN POWER, OF AN INCALCULABLE STRENGTH, LIES WITHIN

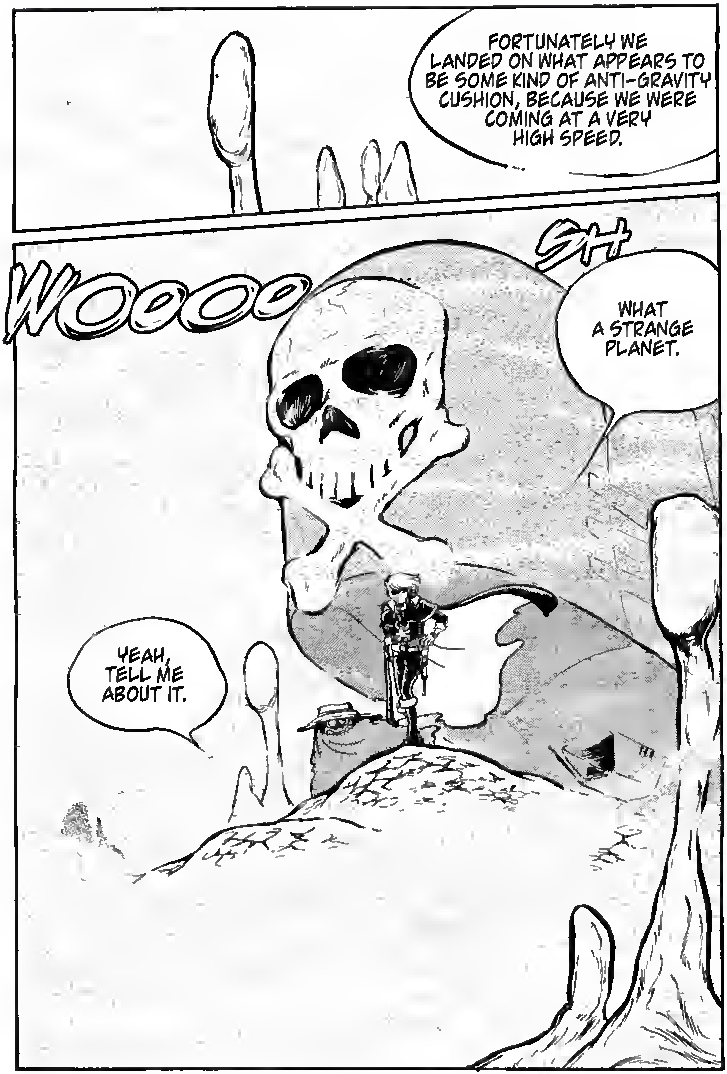
WHERE TO?
WE SHALL DEPART AS SOON AS THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FLEET IS COMPLETE.
YOU'RE A STRANGE CHARACTER, LOGE ...
YOU KNOW PERFECTLY WELL, SO WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME?
YES, SIR ...
I NO LONGER HEAR FREIA'S ORGAN ...
I GUESS THEY MUST BE EXPECTING ME TO MOVE INTO ACTION, SO THEY STOPPED PLAYING IT.
WOTAN'S STRONGHOLD!!
TO WALHALLA, OF COURSE !!


THAT'S NIBELHEIM, THE BLACK CLOUD OF STARS, OVER WHICH ALBERICH REIGNS.


AND THIS IS WALHALLA, AT THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE.
SO THEY SHOULDN'T BE HERE ANY TIME SOON.
THE ENEMY'S PLANET IS IN NEAR PROXIMITY TO THE GALAXY WHERE EARTH IS LOCATED.
THOSE GUARDING MIIME OWE THEIR TECHNOLOGY TO THE PEOPLE OF NIBELHEIM, SO IT WAS FAIRLY EASY FOR THEM TO GET HERE.
BUT, WOTAN, IT DIDN'T TAKE VERY LONG FOR THE SHIP THAT IS CARRYING MIIME TO GET HERE.
THEY USE IT TO REACH ANDROMEDA, ORION, CASSIOPEA AND THE PLEIADES.
HUMANS EVEN LEARNED WARP NAVIGATION.
THEY LEARNED ALL THIS FROM THE DWARF PEOPLE OF NIBELHEIM.
THEY'RE MAKING USE OF SPACE NAVIGATION!!
WHEN IT BELONGS TO WALHALLA AND NIBELHEIM ALONE?!
WHY DID THEY SHARE THIS KNOWLEDGE WITH SUCH PRIMITIVE AND BARBARIC BEINGS...


YOU'LL HAVE TO INQUIRE MIIME ABOUT THAT.
THE UNIVERSE WAS NEVER MEANT TO BE TRAVERSED BACK AND FORTH BY THEIR KIND.
7.5° LATITUDE?
THE SHIP THAT'S CARRYING HER IS LOCATED IN THE EQUATORIAL REGION. IT CRASHED AT THE 7.5° LATITUDE.
THEY'RE HELPLESS, BUT NEVERTHELESS, WE CAN COMMUNICATE WITH THEM.
WZOOOZ


SWOOOSH


FORTUNATELY WE LANDED ON WHAT APPEARS TO BE SOME KIND OF ANTI-GRAVITY CUSHION, BECAUSE WE WERE COMING AT A VERY HIGH SPEED.
WOOOO
GH
WHAT A STRANGE PLANET.
YEAH, TELL ME ABOUT IT.